

Rural Housing Service, USDA

§ 3560.574

(published in the Department of Labor regulations 29 CFR parts 1, 2, and 5).

§ 3560.571 Loan and grant closing.

The requirements established in § 3560.72 apply to all applications for off-farm labor housing loans and grants. In addition, the following requirements apply.

(a) A nonprofit organization will have its Board of Directors adopt an Agency-approved loan and/or grant resolution, which is required as part of the loan docket before loan and/or grant approval. All other loan applicants will execute an Agency-approved loan agreement.

(b) For grants, an Agency approved grant agreement, must be executed by the applicant on the date of grant closing.

(c) The obligations incurred by the applicant, as a condition of accepting the grant, will be in accordance with the off-farm labor housing grant agreement.

(d) Off-farm labor housing loans used to build or acquire new units made pursuant to a contract entered into on or after the effective date of this regulation, will be subject to the restrictive-use provision stated in § 3560.72(a)(2)(ii). All other off-farm labor housing loans are subject to the restrictive-use provisions contained in their loan documents and as outlined in subpart N of this regulation. Such restrictions must be included in the mortgage and deed of trust.

§ 3560.572 Subsequent loans.

The requirements established in § 3560.73 will apply to all applications for subsequent off-farm labor housing loans.

§ 3560.573 Rental assistance.

(a) Rental assistance may be provided to income eligible tenants living in off-farm labor housing in accordance with subpart F of this part. The requirements established in § 3560.252 apply to all tenants receiving rental assistance.

(b) For dormitory style facilities operating on a per bed basis, rental assistance will be made available to the housing on a per unit basis, but may be pro-rated to tenants on a per bed basis.

However, total rent charged for a unit must not exceed conventional rent for comparable units in the area or a similar area and per bed rents must be comparable to per bed rents in the market.

§ 3560.574 Operating assistance.

Operating assistance may be used in lieu of tenant-specific rental assistance in off-farm labor housing projects financed under section 514 or section 516(i) of the Housing Act of 1949 (U.S.C. 1486(i)) that serve migrant farmworkers. Owners of eligible projects may choose tenant-specific rental assistance as described in § 3560.573 or operating assistance, or a combination of both, however, any tenant or unit assisted under this section may not receive rental assistance under § 3560.572. The objective of this program is to provide assistance toward the cost of operating the project so that rents may be set at rates that are affordable to very low and low-income migrant farmworkers.

(a) *Project eligibility requirements.* To be eligible for the operating assistance program, projects must be:

(1) Off-farm labor housing projects financed under section 514 or section 516 with units that are for migrant farmworkers. Housing units for year-round farmworker households are ineligible; and

(2) Eligible for the Agency's rental assistance program as defined in § 3560.573.

(b) *Operating assistance limits.* The amount of operating assistance requested by the owner must be based on the project's actual income and expenses and must be approved by the Agency. In the case of a mixed project, the amount of operating assistance must be based on the portion of actual income and expenses that are attributable to the units that are for migrant farmworkers. In no instance may the annual amount of operating assistance exceed 90 percent of the annual operating costs that are attributable to the migrant units.

(c) *Owner responsibilities—(1) Requesting for operating assistance program.* Owners of off-farm labor housing projects with units for migrant farmworkers may request operating assistance by submitting a request to the

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Agency, which must include a budget. The budget must include:

(i) Estimated operating costs for the migrant units, including authorized expenditures such as reserve deposits;

(ii) Proposed rental rates for the migrant units to generate sufficient funds for operating costs of those units, taking into consideration all other sources of project income; and

(iii) Estimated rental income from tenants, based on a tenant contribution of 30 percent of the average adjusted monthly income of migrant farmworker households in the area.

(2) *Requesting operating assistance payments.* Each month, the owner will submit a request for operating assistance to the Agency.

(3) *Verifying tenant income eligibility.* Owners are responsible for verifying tenant income eligibility. Only very low or low-income households are eligible for the operating assistance rents. Households with incomes above the low-income limits must pay the full rent.

(4) *Reporting requirements.* (i) Owners will complete and submit to the Agency tenant certifications to document tenant income and eligibility.

(ii) Owners will complete and submit monthly to the Agency a project worksheet for operating assistance.

(iii) Owners must submit an annual planning budget to the Agency prior to the project's fiscal year.

§ 3560.575 Rental structure and changes.

Off-farm labor housing is subject to the tenant contribution and rental unit rent requirements for Plan II housing established under subpart E of this part, except where seasonal housing will be occupied for less than a 3-month period. In such instances the best available and practical income verification methods may be used with prior approval of the Agency.

§ 3560.576 Occupancy restrictions.

(a) *Restrictions on conditions of occupancy.* (1) No borrower or grantee will be permitted to require that an occupant work on any particular farm or for any particular owner or interest as a condition of occupancy of the housing.

(2) Tenant selection should be in accordance with the loan agreement, subpart D of this part and § 3560.577.

(3) No borrower or grantee will discriminate, or permit discrimination by any agent, lessee, or other operator in the use or occupancy of the housing or related facilities because of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, familial status, or national origin.

(b) *Eligible households.* To be eligible for occupancy in off-farm labor housing, households must meet the following requirements.

(1) *Occupational.* An eligible household must include a domestic tenant or co-tenant farm laborer, a retired domestic farm laborer, or a disabled domestic farm laborer.

(2) *Income.* The household must meet the definition of income eligible as established in § 3560.152 and the tenant or co-tenant must receive a substantial portion of income from farm labor employment. To determine if a substantial portion of income is from farm labor employment, the following measures will be used.

(i) For housing rented to farm laborers and owned by public bodies, public or private nonprofit organizations, and limited partnerships when charging rent.

(A) Actual dollars earned from farm labor by domestic farm laborers other than migrant farmworkers must equal at least 65 percent of the annual income limits indicated for the Standard Federal regions as published by the Agency for their particular region of the country. For migrant farmworkers living in seasonal housing the actual dollars earned from farm labor by a domestic farm laborer must equal at least 50 percent of annual income limits indicated for the Standard Federal regions, as published by the Agency.

(B) An alternate measure for determining substantial portion of income when actual earnings are not available may be the duration of time a farm laborer worked on a farm or other farming enterprise as a domestic farmworker during the preceding 12 months. In order to be considered as substantial the farm laborer must have worked at least 110 whole days in farm work. For purposes of this section one whole day is the equivalent of at least 7 hours.